

Response to Office Action mailed March 8, 2005
U.S. Patent Application 09/908,983

REMARKS

The Examiner's statement in paragraph 1 of the Action of March 8, 2005, is correct that the highest numbered claim then presented was 53. The reference to claim "55" in Applicant's response was a typo that should have read "53".

The Examiner's statement in paragraph 2 of the Action that claims 11-12 and 26 recite allowable subject matter is appreciatively acknowledged. Claims 11 and 12 are each dependent from claim 8. Claim 8 is dependent from claim 43. Claim 43 is dependent from claim 30. As will be discussed below, Applicant submits that claim 8 recites patentable subject matter, that claim 43 recites patentable subject matter, and that claim 30 recites patentable subject matter.

Claim 26 is dependent from claim 25. Claim 25 is dependent from claim 24. Claim 24 is dependent from claim 22. As will be discussed below, Applicant submits that claim 25 recites patentable subject matter, that claim 24 recites patentable subject matter, and that claim 22 recites patentable subject matter.

The Examiner objects in paragraph 3 of the Action to claims 12, 17, 22, 25, 27, 39 and 53 because of certain informalities. The Examiner's helpful suggestions for correction are appreciatively acknowledged.

The Examiner's inference regarding Claim 12 is correct. Since the term "communication" is used throughout claim 12, it is rewritten to recite "and if the communication includes files".

The Examiner's suggestions for rewriting Claims 17, 22, 25, 27, 39 and 53 have been adopted in the present amendment.

Paragraph 4 of the Action rejects claim 45 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner states that "The added negative limitation 'without a communication' to claim 45 was not explicitly described in the specification" and cites MPEP 2173.05(i). Turning to that section in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Applicant points out that it includes the following statement: "Note that a lack of literal basis in the specification for a negative limitation may not be sufficient to establish a *prima facie* case for lack of descriptive support. *Ex parte Parks*, 30 USPQ2d 1234, 1236 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993)." The MPEP cross-references section 2163. That section includes the statement: "While there is no *in haec verba* requirement, newly added claim limitations must be supported in the specification through express, implicit, or inherent disclosure." Applicant submits that the function of "identifying one or more files of one or more application types without a communication" was at least implicitly or inherently disclosed in the application as filed.

Claim 45 depends from Claim 30, which recites "wherein computer files are presented in a general folder structure including one or more activity folders". The fact

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that the invention separates emails and their attachments into separate and independent files within the same folder in a general folder structure clearly implies that files of various application types that are *not* associated with email can also be stored there as well. Quoted immediately below (with **emphasis supplied**) is some text from the present application that teaches that files of various applications can be stored in the same folder. These passages do not teach that these files *must* be associated with an email to be located within these folders. Rather it is clear that, in accordance with the present invention, emails, email attachments, **AND** files that have nothing to do with communications can all reside together in the same folders, and within a system that allows those emails to be directly delivered into folders that also contain other files that have no relation to communications.

[0016] Specifically, the present invention provides a user interface that allows a user to **group and access different kinds of objects together in a general user-defined folder**. The different kinds of objects that may be placed together in and accessed from the same folder include: application files and documents; contacts such as address book entries, including e-mail addresses and fax numbers; communication files such as e-mails and faxes; web browsing objects, such as favorites or bookmarks; and web pages.

[0017] According to one aspect of the present invention, **files containing activity-relevant email, URLs, documents and contact information are easily placed in a logical organization in the same directory folder, by which they are more readily associated with each other** for retrieval and manipulation. The present invention lets a user store and access all of these functionalities and files directly through the same user interface so that each functionality is constantly available to the user. This is done without exiting the interface. In a particular embodiment of the present invention, manipulation of the files is accomplished without the need (to) exit the interface in order to invoke separate program applications.

[0020] **It is a feature of the present invention that application files, communication messages, email addresses and fax numbers of contacts, web bookmarks or favorites, and web sites can be stored together in and accessed from the same folder of the activity-oriented interface.**

[0039] Figure 6 is an image generated by computer program code performing a method of the present invention on a display **showing an activity-oriented interface folder containing different types of user objects.**

[0089] Also shown in Figure 4 is the **Workspace Area 90, which displays the files and contents of a folder in the My Documents area 34** that has been highlighted and an Arrows Area 70, which organizes the Workspace Area 90 into fields 70a - f that identify certain properties of the files.

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[0092] Figure 6 shows an activity-oriented user-defined folder containing different types of user objects or files. Specifically, Figure 6 shows that opened ARCHIVE folder 42 contains four user-defined folders: Activity A 42a; Activity A1 42b; Hobby B 42c and Project C 42d. Each of folders 42a-d represents exemplary activities, projects, tasks, etc. defined by a user. Activity A folder 42a is shown highlighted and its exemplary contents are displayed in Workspace 90 as files 44a - m. **Particularly noteworthy is that Activity A folder 42a has stored within it the following various kinds of files, which may be accessed by a user: Microsoft Notepad files – 44a, 44c, 44e, 44j through m; Microsoft Word document – 44b : Internet web page: 44e; Microsoft Excel files: 44g & h; e-mails – 44f & i.**

[0093] Figure 6 also displays the various icons used within fields 70a - g of Workspace 90. In field 70a icons indicate the application that the file is associated with. In field 70b, icons indicate whether a user has attached a sticker note to the file or color-coded it. Field 70c displays the user-assigned file name. Field 70d displays the date and time when the field was created (e.g., files 44f & 44g) or sent (e.g., file 44i) or received (e.g., files 44b & 44c). In field 70e, the icon indicates that the file was received into the Activity A folder 42a; when clicked on, the icon in field 70e displays the e-mail address of the sender of the file (not shown). Files received into the Activity A folder 42a include files 44a - 44e, whereas files sent out of Activity A folder 42a include files 44h, 44i, 44k - m. Field 70f displays the name of the sender or recipient of the file depending on how the file has been processed. Information in fields 70c, 70d, and 70f that relates to files 44b to 44e is shown in italics, which indicate that these files have not yet been opened. In field 70g, the icon indicates that the file may be sent or has been sent outside the file folder, here Activity A folder 42a. When the icon in field 70g is activated, the e-mail address of the recipient of the file is displayed (not shown).

[0100] All folders are stored in the ARCHIVE 42 folder of the My Documents folder area 34. Importantly, a user can save any new document created with any application accessible to the user's computing environment (either stored on a hard drive or network, or used directly from the Internet) into any folder in the ARCHIVE 42. A user is not limited to saving files created with one application into one ARCHIVE folder (see Figures 5 through 10). **In practical terms, then, a user may create a new folder, naming it for a particular activity, task, work session, project, etc., and then save into that folder all files related to that activity, etc., regardless of which application they were created with. Thus, unlike software applications or operating systems in the prior art, the present invention actually permits a user to create a user-defined activity folder and to store different kinds of files—regardless of**

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application type –into it, especially as shown in Figures 5 to 7.

[00117] ACCESSING STORED FILES

[00118] The present invention also allows a user to access all the different kinds of application files stored into a user-defined, activity-oriented folder in the ARCHIVE folder 42. **With continuing reference to Figures 6 to 10, a user may access documents and files created from different applications but stored within a single, user-defined activity-oriented folder with ease.** For example, to access the stored files in Activity A folder 42a, a user would open the ARCHIVE folder 42 and activate the Activity A folder 42a, which appears as highlighted in the My Documents area 34. Shown in the Workspace Area 90 are the individual files 44a to 44p (Figure 6) that are stored in Activity A folder 42a. As discussed above, these files are different kind of objects created from different applications.

Paragraph 5 of the action rejects claim 45 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Action states: "It is unclear to the examiner how the method claimed can identify one or more files of one or more application types without a communication when the files of one or more application types are comprised by the communication. As defined by the limitations of base claim 13 [sic, should read 30] upon which claim 45 is dependent, a communication comprises one or more files of one or more application types. If there are no communications, then there would not be files of one or more application types."

Applicant respectfully responds that there is no confusion in claim 45. The base claim 30 recites that "computer files are presented in a general folder structure". Applicant submits that the Examiner's statement arises from thinking in terms of prior art communications software applications such as MS Outlook, wherein communications are stored in a structure separate from a general folder structure. The Examiner is correct to the following extent: in MS Outlook, if there are no communications, then there would not be files of one or more application types ... in the file structure generated by Outlook, namely a file with the .pst extension. However, in accordance with the present invention, files of one or more application types (e.g. a wordprocessing document) are within the general folder structure even though they are not associated with a communication.

Applicant submits that the Examiner's statements in paragraph 5 are consistent with Applicant's position that the present invention is not obvious from the prior art, e.g. MS Outlook.

In paragraph 6 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 3, 5-6, 8, 13, 17-25 and 28-53 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by MS Outlook copyright 1998, as shown in a series of screenshots presented by the Examiner.

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In paragraph 7 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 15-16 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious from the aforesaid MS Outlook reference and Venkatraman et al. U.S. Patent 6,014,688.

Applicant responds to paragraphs 6 and 7 as follows:

Claim 30 is a base claim in the present application. It recites:

30. A method for displaying and manipulating computer files within an information handling system wherein computer files are presented in a general folder structure including one or more activity folders, the method comprising:
automatically identifying a communication comprising one or more files of one or more application types;
automatically storing each of the files of the communication as separate files in a particular activity folder; and
thereby automatically allowing the separate files of the communication to be manipulated from the particular activity folder regardless of the application type.

MS Outlook fails entirely to meet the recitations of claim 30. MS Outlook does not store emails and attachments as separate files in the same folder. In reality, emails and attachments are part of the same file, the .pst file. They are not accessible as separate files, independent of one another. To the user, they are only presented together virtually. The attachment cannot be accessed without selecting and processing the email to which it is attached, and the email and attachment cannot be manipulated separately from each other.

If a user clicks to open up an attachment in Outlook, the attachment is then extracted and saved to a temporary folder (which may have a folder name such as OLK30 or the like). But at no point do the email communication and any attachments simultaneously reside both separately and together in the same folder.

Applicant further submits that MS Outlook differs fundamentally from the present invention in that it fails to provide a method for displaying and **manipulating** computer files ... thereby automatically allowing the separate files of the communication to be **manipulated** from the particular activity folder regardless of the application type.

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The present invention provides for manipulation of files and emails, which the reference, MS Outlook can't do. For clarity of discussion, in this set of Remarks, we define EMAIL as a message with or without attachments in a single act of communication, MESSAGE as a part of email minus attachments, ATTACHMENT as a file attached to a message to combine as email, and FILE as an object unattached to email. LIST is the sorted table of contents of any folder. PREVIEW is contents of a selected email, attachment or file in the list.

Acts of manipulation provided by the present invention include the following:

1. Showing emails and files in the list.
2. Showing messages and attachments in the list. (In contrast, Outlook shows emails in the list and attachments in the preview).
3. Showing files and attachments in the list.
4. Sorting messages, attachments and files in the list by name, size, date, sender or recipient, sent or received, file type and customized mark.
5. Selecting any combination of emails, messages, attachments and/or files from the list.
6. Renaming emails, messages, attachments and/or files.
7. Copying or moving attachments into a different folder with the message or other attachments of the same email left behind.
8. Saving an attachment in the same folder, after opening and modifying it.

For each of the aforementioned acts of manipulation, the specification of the present patent application teaches as follows:

1. Showing emails and files in the list.

[0016] Specifically, the present invention provides a user interface that allows a user to **group and access different kinds of objects together in a general user-defined folder**. The different kinds of objects that may be placed together in and accessed from the same folder include: application files and documents; contacts such as address book entries, including e-mail addresses and fax numbers; communication files such as e-mails and faxes; web browsing objects, such as favorites or bookmarks; and web pages.

[0017] According to one aspect of the present invention, files containing activity-relevant email, URLs, documents and contact information **are easily placed in a logical organization in the same directory folder, by which they are more readily associated with each other** for retrieval and manipulation. The present

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invention lets a user store and access all of these functionalities and files directly through the same user interface so that each functionality is constantly available to the user. This is done without exiting the interface. In a particular embodiment of the present invention, manipulation of the files is accomplished without the need (to) exit the interface in order to invoke separate program applications.

[0020] It is a feature of the present invention that application files, communication messages, email addresses and fax numbers of contacts, web bookmarks or favorites, and web sites can be stored together in and accessed from the same folder of the activity-oriented interface.

[0039] Figure 6 is an image generated by computer program code performing a method of the present invention on a display showing an activity-oriented interface folder containing different types of user objects.

[0089] Also shown in Figure 4 is the Workspace Area 90, which displays the files and contents of a folder in the My Documents area 34 that has been highlighted and an Arrows Area 70, which organizes the Workspace Area 90 into fields 70a - f that identify certain properties of the files.

[0092] Figure 6 shows an activity-oriented user-defined folder containing different types of user objects or files. Specifically, Figure 6 shows that opened ARCHIVE folder 42 contains four user-defined folders: Activity A 42a; Activity A1 42b; Hobby B 42c and Project C 42d. Each of folders 42a-d represents exemplary activities, projects, tasks, etc. defined by a user. Activity A folder 42a is shown highlighted and its exemplary contents are displayed in Workspace 90 as files 44a - m. **Particularly noteworthy is that Activity A folder 42a has stored within it the following various kinds of files, which may be accessed by a user: Microsoft Notepad files – 44a, 44c, 44e, 44j through m; Microsoft Word document – 44b : Internet web page: 44e; Microsoft Excel files: 44g & h; e-mails – 44f & i.**

[0093] Figure 6 also displays the various icons used within fields 70a - g of Workspace 90. In field 70a icons indicate the application that the file is associated with. In field 70b, icons indicate whether a user has attached a sticker note to the file or color-coded it. Field 70c displays the user-assigned file name. Field 70d displays the date and time when the field was created (e.g., files 44f & 44g) or sent (e.g., file 44i) or received (e.g., files 44b & 44c). In field 70e, the icon indicates that the file was received into the Activity A folder 42a; when clicked on, the icon in field 70e displays the e-mail address of the sender of the file (not shown). Files received into the Activity A folder 42a include files 44a - 44e, whereas files sent out of Activity A folder 42a include files 44h, 44i, 44k - m. Field 70f displays the name of the sender or recipient of the file depending on how the file has been processed.

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Information in fields 70c, 70d, and 70f that relates to files 44b to 44e is shown in italics, which indicate that these files have not yet been opened. In field 70g, the icon indicates that the file may be sent or has been sent outside the file folder, here Activity A folder 42a. When the icon in field 70g is activated, the e-mail address of the recipient of the file is displayed (not shown).

[0100] All folders are stored in the ARCHIVE 42 folder of the My Documents folder area 34. Importantly, a user can save any new document created with any application accessible to the user's computing environment (either stored on a hard drive or network, or used directly from the Internet) into any folder in the ARCHIVE 42. A user is not limited to saving files created with one application into one ARCHIVE folder (see Figures 5 through 10). **In practical terms, then, a user may create a new folder, naming it for a particular activity, task, work session, project, etc., and then save into that folder all files related to that activity, etc., regardless of which application they were created with. Thus, unlike software applications or operating systems in the prior art, the present invention actually permits a user to create a user-defined activity folder and to store different kinds of files—regardless of application type—into it, especially as shown in Figures 5 to 7.**

[00117] ACCESSING STORED FILES

[00118] The present invention also allows a user to access all the different kinds of application files stored into a user-defined, activity-oriented folder in the ARCHIVE folder 42. **With continuing reference to Figures 6 to 10, a user may access documents and files created from different applications but stored within a single, user-defined activity-oriented folder with ease.** For example, to access the stored files in Activity A folder 42a, a user would open the ARCHIVE folder 42 and activate the Activity A folder 42a, which appears as highlighted in the My Documents area 34. Shown in the Workspace Area 90 are the individual files 44a to 44p (Figure 6) that are stored in Activity A folder 42a. As discussed above, these files are different kind of objects created from different applications.

2. Showing messages and attachments in the list

[0020] It is a feature of the present invention that application files, communication messages, email addresses and fax numbers of contacts, web bookmarks or favorites, and web sites can be stored together in and accessed from the same folder of the activity-oriented interface

[0021] It is also a feature of the present invention that communications containing attachment(s) are separated on arrival to the recipient into a text message

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file and attachment file(s), each attachment file bearing an indication of the sender and/or recipient. A further feature of the present invention identifies such attachments with a visible icon denoted as a sticker note, which indicates the subject of the email message that the attachment accompanied. Text message files and attachment files are also annotated with the specific date and time received or sent. In this way, **the user can relate and group within the general folder structure email messages with their attachments and yet is still able to process and perform operations on the attachments without having to so process the email messages.**

[0030] The present invention solves a problem not solved by the prior art by allowing a **user to work separately on email messages and their attachments, without leaving the same activity folder.** Therefore, it is an important advantage of the present invention that a user may receive, amend, add to, move and/or send an attachment from within the same activity interface without having to access different folder structures of various applications first.

[0039] Figure 6 is an image generated by computer program code performing a method of the present invention on a display **showing an activity-oriented interface folder containing different types of user objects.**

[0041] Figure 8 is an image generated by computer program code performing a method of the present invention on a display **showing an activity folder containing a received electronic communication, separated on arrival into a message and a file,** and also showing an indication of a recipient for the sent communication versus a sender for received communication.

[0092] Figure 6 shows an **activity-oriented user-defined folder containing different types of user objects or files.** Specifically, Figure 6 shows that opened ARCHIVE folder 42 contains four user-defined folders: Activity A 42a; Activity A1 42b; Hobby B 42c and Project C 42d. Each of folders 42a-d represents exemplary activities, projects, tasks, etc. defined by a user. Activity A folder 42a is shown highlighted and its exemplary contents are displayed in Workspace 90 as files 44a - m. **Particularly noteworthy is that Activity A folder 42a has stored within it the following various kinds of files, which may be accessed by a user: Microsoft Notepad files - 44a, 44c, 44e, 44j through m; Microsoft Word document - 44b : Internet web page: 44e; Microsoft Excel files: 44g & h; e-mails - 44f & i.**

[0093] Figure 6 also displays the various icons used within fields 70a - g of Workspace 90. In field 70a icons indicate the application that the file is associated with. In field 70b, icons indicate whether a user has attached a sticker note to the file or color-coded it. Field 70c displays the user-assigned file name. Field 70d displays the date and time when the field was created (e.g., files 44f & 44g) or sent (e.g., file 44i) or received (e.g., files 44b & 44c). In field 70 e, the icon indicates that

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the file was received into the Activity A folder 42a; when clicked on, the icon in field 70e displays the e-mail address of the sender of the file (not shown). Files received into the Activity A folder 42a include files 44a - 44e, whereas files sent out of Activity A folder 42a include files 44 h, 44i, 44 k - m. Field 70f displays the name of the sender or recipient of the file depending on how the file has been processed. Information in fields 70c, 70d, and 70f that relates to files 44b to 44e is shown in italics, which indicate that these files have not yet been opened. In field 70g, the icon indicates that the file may be sent or has been sent outside the file folder, here Activity A folder 42a. When the icon in field 70g is activated, the e-mail address of the recipient of the file is displayed (not shown).

[00100] All folders are stored in the ARCHIVE 42 folder of the My Documents folder area 34. Importantly, a user can save any new document created with any application accessible to the user's computing environment (either stored on a hard drive or network, or used directly from the Internet) into any folder in the ARCHIVE 42. A user is not limited to saving files created with one application into one ARCHIVE folder (see Figures 5 through 10). **In practical terms, then, a user may create a new folder, naming it for a particular activity, task, work session, project, etc., and then save into that folder all files related to that activity, etc., regardless of which application they were created with. Thus, unlike software applications or operating systems in the prior art, the present invention actually permits a user to create a user-defined activity folder and to store different kinds of files—regardless of application type—into it, especially as shown in Figures 5 to 7.**

[00102] Figure 8 shows a user-defined activity folder, Activity A 42a, that contains a received electronic communication that has been separated upon arrival by a software method of the present invention into an e-mail message and an attachment. In Figure 8, the contents of opened Activity A folder 42a is shown listed in the Workspace Area.

[00103] Shown in Figure 8 are two related files, 44q and 44r, which both show in field 70d that they were received at the same time. For attachments to e-mail messages (and for sticker notes placed in field 70b of any file), a user may position the cursor over the icon in field 70b to bring into view a message window that displays the name of the attached file (or the content of the sticker note attached to the file).

[00104] The present invention separates e-mail messages from their attached files upon arrival, while storing these two kinds of files within the same activity folder, which is not done by the prior art. A user, therefore, may process and access these two kinds of files from within the same activity folder.

[0004] Moreover, with continuing reference to Figure 8, field 70f in Workspace 90

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shows the name of the sender or the recipient of the file. The arrow icon in field 70e indicates the file was received; whereas the arrow icon in field 70g indicates the file [0005] was sent.

[00110] SENDING/RECEIVING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

[00111] With continuing reference to Figures 4-9, a user may receive an electronics communication by activating the Send/Receive Mail icon 12g in Program Area 10, which will cause a software method of the present invention to connect to a private communications server (so long as the user has configured a software method of the present invention beforehand to connect to a private server by activating the Configure Program icon 12j). Communication messages that the user has received from any of its registered PPP servers will appear in the Workspace Area 90 when the user activates the My Documents area 34 (so long as the user has configured a software method of the present invention beforehand by activating the Configure Program icon 12j). The user may then store any of the communications messages into a user-defined activity folder in the ARCHIVE 42 by picking (selecting) a message in the My Documents area 34, positioning the cursor over the ARCHIVE 42 folder of choice and then dropping (right-clicking) the message there. **To reiterate, e-mail messages and their attached documents are received by a user as two separate files, so that a user may store, process and access them as separate files within the same user-defined activity folder.**

3. Showing files and attachments in the list.

See 1 and 2 above.

4. Sorting messages, attachments and files in the list by name, size, date, sender or recipient, sent or received, file type and customized mark.

[0031] It is an advantage of the present invention that various objects left accumulated in the general desktop folder at the end of the last working session will be automatically placed into a general archive folder and are either retrievable by subject, sender/recipient or date and movable back to either the general desktop folder or any old or new folder, or may be deleted.

[00107] SORTING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

[00108] As shown in Figure 9, a user, while working within a user-defined folder

[00109] may sort the files displayed in the Workspace 90 to include only those communication files, i.e., e-mail messages and attachments, that contain a certain contact. In Figure 9, the sort was limited to those files within an exemplary user-defined activity folder, Activity A folder 42a, that contain an exemplary contact, "Contact 2", in field 70f. Thus, Figure 9 shows that subset of folders, 44e, 44l, 44i, and 44n, within user-defined Activity A folder 42a that contain "Contact 2"

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in field 70f. Highlighted in Figure 9 is the file "Memo on Activity A (...", which displays in field 70f not a specific Contact name but a LIST, which indicates that the file has been sent to more than one Contact. When a user places the cursor on the icon in Field 70g of File 44n, a window message 47 is shown that indicates that the file has been sent to "Contact 2" and to "Contact 4".

[0001] MAIN DISPLAY 300 AND FILE SYSTEM EXTENSION 310

[0002] The Main Display 300 represents the choices available to the user when the inventive program first opens: namely, the Folder Tree 302, the Document, Contact or Tool List 304 or the Toolbar 306. File System Extension 310 provides data to files shown in the Main Display 300, which a user may access through the Folder Tree 302 of the Main Display 300. Two-way communication exists between the Main Display 300 and File System Extension 304, which means that the File System Extension 304 allows a user to add various kinds of information to different kinds of file types and the information will be shown in the Main Display 300. There are several pieces of information the File System Extension 310 allows a user to add to a file, including Address Information 312, Extended Document Title 314, Extended Date/Time Information 316, Color Coding 318, Document Sticker 320, Contacts 322 and Contact Groups 324.

5. Selecting any combination of emails, messages, attachments and/or files from the list.

[0026] In addition, an important feature of the present invention is a pick-and-drop technique by which a user moves objects within the activity-oriented interface. In a "pick-and-drop" technique, a user clicks a mouse button once to select an object or objects, moves the object(s) around the interface without having to keep a mouse button continuously depressed, and then drops the object(s) where needed by pressing a mouse button once again, which action de-selects the object(s).

6. Renaming emails, messages, attachments and/or files.

[0022] It is also a feature of the present invention to provide visible icons by which the user can create and **rename user-defined folders of a general folder structure into which the user may store together application files, communication messages, email address and fax numbers of contacts, web bookmarks or favorites and websites.** The visible icons provided by the current invention presents a powerful user interface that displays a user's own folders, which a user creates to organize and group files and correspondence, along with shortcuts to installed software applications and to the utilities of the software of the present invention.

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[0055] Figure 22 is a diagram showing the "rename" routine used with the sequence of Figures 15A-15C.

[0083] The Program Area 10 comprises at least two kinds of icons: a plurality of first icons 12a-l and a plurality of second icons 14a-d. Each of the first icons 12a-l is a graphical representation of an individual utility function. Icons 12a-l in the Program Area represent the following functions: Create 12a by which a user may create a new file, folder or address book group; **Rename 12b by which to rename a file, folder or address book group**; Duplicate 12c by which to create a copy of a file or address in the same folder; Print 12d by which to print a file; Assign Color 12e by which to attach a color code to a file or address; Attach Sticker 12f by which to attach a sticker note to a file or address; Send & Receive 12g by which to connect to a server and to send and receive email messages; Reply to Mail 12h by which to send an email message to the sender of a previously received message; View With Address 12i by which to view files sent or received from a selected address; Configure Program 12j by which to establish setup parameters for connection to a private server and for automatic, transparent encryption and decryption of sent and received e-mails; Configure Fonts 12k by which to set up fonts used in the interface; Delete 12l function by which to put files or folders into a "trash bin" and to delete addresses, groups or program icons.

[00150] Figure 22 is a flow chart depicting the response to the "rename" process of Figure 15. Upon invocation of the rename process 536, the user is prompted 677 for a new name. The new name is then set 678 and the process terminated 562.

7. Copying or moving attachments into a different folder with the message or other attachments of the same email left behind.

[0021] It is also a feature of the present invention that communications containing attachment(s) **are separated on arrival to the recipient into a text message file and attachment file(s)**, each attachment file bearing an indication of the sender and/or recipient. A further feature of the present invention identifies such attachments with a visible icon denoted as a sticker note, which indicates the subject of the email message that the attachment accompanied. Text message files and attachment files are also annotated with the specific date and time received or sent. In this way, **the user can relate and group within the general folder structure email messages with their attachments and yet is still able to process and perform operations on the attachments without having to so process the email messages.**

[0030] The present invention solves a problem not solved by the prior art by allowing a user to work separately on email messages and their

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attachments, without leaving the same activity folder. Therefore, it is an important advantage of the present invention that a user may receive, amend, add to, move and/or send an attachment from within the same activity interface without having to access different folder structures of various applications first.

[00104] The present invention separates e-mail messages from their attached files upon arrival, while storing these two kinds of files within the same activity folder, which is not done by the prior art. A user, therefore, may process and access these two kinds of files from within the same activity folder.

[00110] SENDING/RECEIVING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

[00111] With continuing reference to Figures 4-9, a user may receive an electronics communication by activating the Send/Receive Mail icon 12g in Program Area 10, which will cause a software method of the present invention to connect to a private communications server (so long as the user has configured a software method of the present invention beforehand to connect to a private server by activating the Configure Program icon 12j). Communication messages that the user received from any of its registered PPP servers will appear in the Workspace Area 90 when the user activates the My Documents area 34 (so long as the user has configured a software method of the present invention beforehand by activating the Configure Program icon 12j). The user may then store any of the communications messages into a user-defined activity folder in the ARCHIVE 42 by picking (selecting) a message in the My Documents area 34, positioning the cursor over the ARCHIVE 42 folder of choice and then dropping (right-clicking) the message there. To reiterate, e-mail messages and their attached documents are received by a user as two separate files, so that a user may store, process and access them as separate files within the same user-defined activity folder.

8. Saving an attachment in the same folder, after opening and modifying it.

[0021] It is also a feature of the present invention that communications containing attachment(s) are separated on arrival to the recipient into a text message file and attachment file(s), each attachment file bearing an indication of the sender and/or recipient. A further feature of the present invention identifies such attachments with a visible icon denoted as a sticker note, which indicates the subject of the email message that the attachment accompanied. Text message files and attachment files are also annotated with the specific date and time received or sent. In this way, the user can relate and group within the general folder structure email messages with their attachments and yet is still able to process and perform operations on the attachments *without having to so process* the email messages.

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[0030] The present invention solves a problem not solved by the prior art by allowing a user to work separately on email messages and their attachments, without leaving the same activity folder. Therefore, it is an important advantage of the present invention that a user may receive, amend, add to, move and/or send an attachment from within the same activity interface without having to access different folder structures of various applications first.

[00104] The present invention separates e-mail messages from their attached files upon arrival, while storing these two kinds of files within the same activity folder, which is not done by the prior art. A user, therefore, may process and access these two kinds of files from within the same activity folder.

[00110] SENDING/RECEIVING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

[00111] With continuing reference to Figures 4-9, a user may receive an electronics communication by activating the Send/Receive Mail icon 12g in Program Area 10, which will cause a software method of the present invention to connect to a private communications server (so long as the user has configured a software method of the present invention beforehand to connect to a private server by activating the Configure Program icon 12j). Communication messages that the user has received from any of its registered PPP servers will appear in the Workspace Area 90 when the user activates the My Documents area 34 (so long as the user has configured a software method of the present invention beforehand by activating the Configure Program icon 12j). The user may then store any of the communications messages into a user-defined activity folder in the ARCHIVE 42 by picking (selecting) a message in the My Documents area 34, positioning the cursor over the ARCHIVE 42 folder of choice and then dropping (right-clicking) the message there. To reiterate, e-mail messages and their attached documents are received by a user as two separate files, so that a user may store, process and access them as separate files within the same user-defined activity folder.

[0148] Figures 19A and 19B are a flow chart depicting the "open document" routine 534. Upon invoking the "open document" routine 534, a determination 631 is made as to whether the document is already open. If the document is already open, the process switches 632 to an "open document" window. If the document is not already opened, a determination 633 is made as to whether the document is unread. If the document is unread, the document is then marked 634 as read. Whether or not the document is marked as read or unread, a determination 635 is made as to whether the document is a contact file. If the document is a contact file, a determination 637 is made as to whether the document is already in the contact list. If the document is in the contact list, the process terminates 562. If not, the document is added 638 to the contact list and the process terminates 562. If the document is not a contact file, a determination 639 is made as to whether the document is an executable file. If the document is an executable file, the executable file is executed 640 and the process terminated. If the document is not an executable file, a determination 641 is made as to whether the document is a web link, and if so, the web link is opened 642. If the document is not a web link, a determination 643 is made whether the document is protected from modification. If the document is protected from modification, a

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backup copy 644 is made and the document is nevertheless opened 645 in a window. The backup copy is used as the protection from modification. If the document is not protected from modification, the document is nevertheless opened 645 in the window, but the backup copy (block 644) is not made. After the document is opened 645, the process waits 646 for the user to close the document window. A determination 647 is made as to whether the document is modified. If the document is modified, a determination 648 is made as to whether the document is protected. If the document is protected from modification, the modified document is renamed 649 and the original document 650 is restored from the backup copy. The process terminates when a determination that the document is not protected is made in block 648 or the original document is restored from the backup copy 650. At this time, the process is terminated 562. If the document has not been modified (block 647), a determination 651 is made as to whether the backup copy has been created 644 is made. If the backup copy is made, the backup copy is deleted 652 and the process terminated. If the backup copy has not been created, the process terminates 562 regardless.

MS Outlook does not have the capability of providing such manipulation. Thus it fails to meet the recitations of claim 30. Turning attention to the claims dependent directly or indirectly from claim 30, namely claims 3, 5-6, 8, 11-13, 15-21, 31-53, each patentably distinguishes over MS Outlook, considered alone or with any other reference of record.

Claim 22 is the other base claim in this case. It recites as follows:

22. A computer program product for displaying and manipulating computer files and presenting the computer files in a general folder structure for user files, the computer program product comprising:

- code for receiving communications files, wherein a communication file comprises one or more application type files;
- code for selecting an activity folder where an activity folder has at least one or more separate current user-defined activity folders; and
- code for associating the communications files comprising one or more application type files into separate current user defined activity folders, including code for allocating the separate user defined activity folders within the activity folder for each of the communication files comprising one or more application type files, thereby providing an activity folder which includes related communications files comprising one or more application type files in separate user defined activity folders within one activity folder.

In the present Action, the paragraph bridging pages 7-8 expresses the Examiner's analysis of why MS Outlook anticipates this claim. However, the claim is distinguished from Outlook in the recitation of presenting the computer files in a general folder structure for user files. The claims that are directly or indirectly dependent on

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claim 22, namely claims 23-29, are similarly neither anticipated nor made obvious by MS Outlook and any other reference of record.

This is intended to be a complete response to the present Action. If, on the basis of the foregoing, the Examiner should fail to agree that the claims as currently presented are patentable over the art of record, Applicant respectfully requests an interview at which modifications to the claims may be discussed.

Please address any questions or comments to the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted:

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/GerryJayElman/

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